

CHAPTER 1.1.1.

DEFINITIONS

Article 1.1.1.1.

Competent Authority

means the *Veterinary Services*, or other Authority of a Member Country, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising, **to the best of a country's ability**, the implementation of the aquatic animal health measures or other standards in the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual*.

~~means the National Veterinary Services, or other Authority of a Member Country, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of the aquatic animal health measures recommended in the *Aquatic Code*.~~

Rationale: These are recommendations, albeit good ones, but recommendations nonetheless.

Infection

means the presence of a multiplying or otherwise developing or latent *disease agent* in ~~or on~~ a host.

Rationale

How does this pertain to exogenous virus detection (i.e. using gill tissue for virus isolation), which does not necessarily imply infection? The use of “on” seems to have more application for parasitic *infestations*, a situation different from “infection.”

Veterinarian

means a person registered or licensed by the relevant *Veterinary statutory body* of a country to practi**sc**e veterinary medicine/science in that country.

Veterinary Administration

means the governmental *Veterinary Service body* having authority in the whole country ~~for~~ **to** ~~implementing~~ the animal health measures and international veterinary certification process which the OIE recommends, and supervising or auditing their application.

~~means the National Veterinary Service (or other official entity) in a country having the authority to implement and carry out aquatic animal health measures (i.e. *stamping out*, *fallowing*, *disinfection* etc.), and certification as recommended in the *Aquatic Code*. (If an authority other than the *Veterinary Administration* acts as the *Competent Authority* for matters related to aquaculture and protection of the health of farmed and wild populations of fish, molluscs and crustaceans, the *Veterinary Administration* nonetheless remains the body that is responsible for liaison with the OIE in terms of Section 1.2. of the *Aquatic Code*.)~~

Rationale: This definition, as well as the two below (*Veterinary Authority* and *Veterinary Services*) are circularly and confusingly defined in cross-terminology. *Veterinary Services* is the top/all encompassing level, followed by *Veterinary Administration*, followed by *Veterinary Authority*. That is not clear in the language used.

Changing the word “for implementing” to “to implement” seems like a minor point, but this stresses the point that these are recommendations.

Veterinary Authority

means a *Veterinary Service*, under the authority of the *Veterinary Administration*, which is directly responsible for the application of animal health measures in a specified area of the country. It may also have responsibility for the issuing or the supervision of the issuing of international veterinary certificates in that area.

Veterinary Services

means the *Veterinary Administration*, all the *Veterinary Authorities*, and all persons authorised, registered or licensed by the *Veterinary statutory body*.

Veterinary statutory body

means an autonomous authority regulating *veterinarians* ~~and veterinary para-professionals~~.

Rationale: There is no definition for “*para-professionals*” referred to in the definition for *Veterinary statutory body*. Either one should be developed for this Chapter or deleted from this definition.